



SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



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It's Time to Fully Protect Kids from Sexual Predators

By Senator George Runner

Some of the best laws we have in California to combat sex offenders are due to committed Republican legislators and governors that overcame the many obstacles that the Legislature and the ACLU placed before us. For example, the Megan's Law computer database was a result of many Republican's hard work and the dedication of committed California citizens.

Megan's Law is a great tool for parents, but it does not go far enough. If a sex offender fails to register, the state loses track of them and we do not know where they are. It is estimated by the Department of Justice that approximately 20% of registered sex offenders are missing in California. How can we protect our children, if do not even know where the predators are?

Not only that, but we need to require the maximum sentences for these sex offenders that prey on our most vulnerable. Currently, they receive good time credits, are released early, have only a maximum of five years on parole, and upon release, we trust them to re-register every year without any way to track them down if they fail to do so.

That is why my wife, Assemblywoman Sharon Runner and I, have introduced legislation that is sponsored by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to once and for all put the Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act, popularly known as Jessica's Law, on the books. Jessica's law is named in memory of Jessica Lundsford, a young girl brutalized and murdered by a sex offender who failed to register with local authorities. This legislation overhauls the sex offender laws by putting real teeth in the penalties and will no longer allow a sex offender to roam free and undetected.

This week, we introduced SB 588 and AB 231 and urge the Legislature to not delay! Every day there are sex offenders moving freely about our communities undetected and unknown to us.

The majority party here in the Legislature has a chokehold on passing any legislation that will better protect our children. The Legislature kills bill after bill that would protect our children. They have killed legislation that would place stiffer penalties and life sentences on sex offenders, require GPS on sex offenders for life, to ensure that "sexually violent predators" are sentenced to indeterminate commitments after one offense, and to charge felonies for possessing child pornography, to name a few.

We strongly believe it is time for the Legislature to act now and not let another year go by

News of the Week

[Governor Announces Legislation that will Crack Down on Sex Offenders](#)

[Roundtable Discussion Held on Jessica's Law with moderator Governor Pete Wilson in Los Angeles](#)

[San Bernardino County Plan to Curb Illegal Immigrants is Approved](#)

[Special Election is Still On](#)

[War on Gangs in High Desert](#)

[Editorial: Keep Cutting Workers' Comp Costs](#)

[Not Everyone Agrees that Workers' Comp Rates are Going Down](#)

[Acton Agua Dulce Library Approved](#)

allowing more children to be victimized. Below are the key provisions of our legislation.

Key Elements of Jessica's Law (SB 588 and AB 231)

- TOUGHENS "ONE-STRIKE YOU'RE OUT"
 - Adds burglary and kidnapping with intent to sexually assault to "one-strike you're out" statute (mandatory 25 years to life).
- EXPANDS SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR PROGRAM
 - Allows for the designation of predators as "sexually violent" after one offense, rather than waiting for them to strike twice.
 - Substantially increases control of "sexually violent predators" by providing for an indefinite commitment to a locked state hospital.
- ELECTRONICALLY MONITORS SEX OFFENDERS FOR LIFE
 - Requires sex offenders with felony convictions to wear a GPS tracking device for life.
 - Requires offenders to pay for their own GPS equipment.
- PREDATOR-FREE ZONE
 - Prohibits convicted sex offenders from living within 2,000 feet of any school or children's park.
 - Allows local governments to include additional sites they deem appropriate, such as a children's museum or water park.
- CLOSES LOOPHOLE FOR HABITUAL OFFENDERS
 - Guarantees that all habitual offenders are punished 25 years to life.
- ELIMINATES "GOOD-TIME" CREDITS FOR SEX OFFENDERS
 - Keeps convicted predators off the streets by ensuring they serve their *entire* sentence.
- INCREASES PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
 - Makes possession of child pornography a felony.
 - Possessors of child pornography with prior sex offenses will face up to 6 years in prison.
- PROTECTS CHILDREN FROM INTERNET LURING
 - Allows law-enforcement to act as decoys in order to engage and capture Internet predators.
- CRACKS DOWN ON RAPISTS THAT DRUG THEIR VICTIMS
 - Adds five years to the predator's sentence when the victim is drugged in the course of rape.
- INCREASES SENTENCES AND FINES ACROSS THE BOARD
 - Changes parole from five years to 10 years.

**If you would like to contact Senator Runner, please click
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